

Navigator

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
America's Volunteer Lifesavers



NEW YORK AUXILIARY WORKS OUT

D1SR MEMBERS SHINE DURING FLEET WEEK

By **LT Amy Florentino, USCG**

Commanding Officer
USCGC *Katherine Walker*
and **Dee Thompson**

ADSO-SP 1SR

New York City often is referred to as The City That Never Sleeps. But it also is a city that never stops. There is always something new and exciting going on in The Big Apple. Always something to watch.

One of the city's most magnificent annual events is Fleet Week—a celebration of patriotism.

During Fleet Week, the people of New York City show their appreciation with a heartfelt thanks to the military. As the sea of uniformed personnel “invade” the city and all it has to offer, it is not uncommon for the sailors, marines, soldiers, airmen and Coast Guardsmen to be thanked, patted on the back, and smiled at from all angles as they take in the sights and sounds of what many consider to be the world's greatest city.

Amid this year's tribute to the active-duty armed forces, the USCG Auxiliary continued its strong tradition of volunteerism aboard the deck of the Coast Guard Cutter *Katherine Walker*.

Serving as onboard tour guides from D1SR were: Dee Thompson, ADSO-SP; Jim Crincoli, FSO-VE 44; Monica Valdez, SO-PA 10-2; Mike Chalet, FSO-PS 10-2; Eric Smith, SO-MS 10-2; Rino Ramz, Flotilla 11-11; and, Duane W. Farabaugh, Flotilla 11-3. They all provided an outstanding service to the public and a personal thank-you to the crew.

This group of volunteers logged over 30 hours apiece, hosting hundreds of personal tours for visitors to the Cutter. In addition, they set up and manned a Coast



Photo: LT Amy Florentino, USCGC *Katherine Walker*

Rear Admiral Timothy S. Sullivan, Commander, First Coast Guard District, joins Dee Thompson, ADSO-SP 1SR, at information and recruiting desk set up at Pier 90 in Manhattan. The Auxiliarist logged more than 30 hours assisting the Coast Guard during New York's annual Fleet Week event.

Guard information booth at the head of the pier at which CGC *Katherine Walker* was moored, providing the public with boating safety information and USCG recruiting material.

The *Katherine Walker*, a ship that is responsible for busy New York Harbor's aids to navigation, showed her true colors this Fleet Week as a hard-working and truly multi-mission ship.

The Cutter's crew maintained harbor security and participated as the only Coast Guard vessel in the Parade of Ships, as she rendered Honors to Fort Hamilton Army Base and Ground Zero.

Once moored at Pier 90 in Manhattan, the Cutter's crew teamed up with the Auxiliary to scrub the ship, host full-dress flags, set up a recruiting booth, and prepare for the Fleet Week festivities.

During the weekend, Coast Guard Cutters *Katherine Walker* and *Tybee* shared the pier with the Navy's USS *Wasp*, and were amazed at the reception given by the city. Chief Warrant Officer David Barkalow, the *Walker's* executive officer, was amazed at the excellent hospitality of New Yorkers during these festivities.

“The treatment of military personnel by the residents of New York was outstanding this week,” he said. “I am certain it gave the servicemen and women a sense of pride in what they do and proved to them that the sacrifices they, and their families,

make throughout the year are very much appreciated.”

A highlight of Fleet Week 2007 was the opportunity to show off our ships to the public, and that was where the Auxiliarist stepped up and stole the show.

For three days over the Memorial Day weekend, the Auxiliarists donned their dress uniforms and took the helm, allowing the active-duty crew of CGC *Katherine Walker* to participate in the shoreside Fleet Week activities.

Parents corralled curious wide-eyed children that couldn't wait to step aboard the large, magnificent ships. Veterans, many of whom wore ball caps declaring where they had served, waited to board the vessels that would take them on a trip back in time to relive memories of the past.

Auxiliarist Thompson was particularly moved.

“I recall a point in the day when more than 50 veterans, from all branches of service, lined up behind me,” she said. “As I gazed at the smiling faces, I realized that these men and women went through wars, hardship, injuries, and separation from their families for our country—for us!”

“I thought, ‘How could we ever thank them?’

“At that moment, I felt intense pride in being there. In the blink of an eye, I realized that my being there was, in part, my way of saying, ‘Thank You.’” 🌟